

weighty less glossy tomes. This atlas certainly deserves serious consideration for a place on the clinic bookshelf but I would advise firstly measuring to ensure it will fit (vital statistics—12" × 10" × 1").

CHRIS SONNEX

**Topics in clinical dermatology: sexually transmitted diseases.** By Tomasz F. Mroczkowski (Pp 404, £96) New York. Pub Igaku-Shoin. 1990. ISBN 0-89640-163-4.

Although the author in his preface anticipates a wide readership for this short textbook on sexually transmitted diseases I strongly suspect that his prime market is that of the American dermatovenereologist who may only dabble in the subject.

As one might expect for a book aimed at a dermatology market the volume is lavishly illustrated and printed on high quality paper (reflected in its price). There is little logical structure to the arrangement of chapters, the book being organised on a disease orientated basis, each chapter dealing with a single disease or group of diseases. Chapters follow a simple formula starting with an overview, epidemiology and aetiology section followed by clinical manifestations, differential diagnosis and treatment. All but the clinical sections are kept to the barest minimum. The discussions are almost entirely from an American perspective, where patterns of disease presentation surprisingly differ from those in the UK, and still seem to predominate in the author's practice ("50% of female clinic attenders harbor trichomonas, most PID is due to gonorrhoea"). Treatment and follow-up recommendations are based on the STD treatment guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control—many firstline UK treatments fail to be mentioned or are only presented in passing. Although the author aims to give particular advice on how best to collect and store specimens so as to maximise isolation rates these details are slipped into the text in an ad hoc manner. Even at the end of reading the whole book one is left wondering what the author would recommend as adequate screening in straightforward presentations of common illness.

The absence of any introduction or discussion of the scope of sexually

transmitted diseases is an obvious omission. Important principles of practice such as screening for associated disease, contact tracing, and health education are only mentioned in passing. Although lists of differential diagnoses are offered for each causative agent no attempt is really made to discuss clinical problems on a syndrome basis. It is for all these reasons as well as its poor value that this book is particular unsuitable for anyone coming new to the subject.

R PATEL

**Dermatology.** By O Braun-Falco, G Plewig, H H Wolff, R K Winkelman. 1991. (Pp 1235, DM 340) Berlin: Springer-Verlag. ISBN 3-540-16672-6.

This is the English translation of a major German textbook. It covers classical dermatology plus venerology, proctology, allergies, photobiology etc. It is well illustrated with colour plates and very readable. Differential diagnoses are covered as well as treatment. One section which will be of particular interest to genitourinary physicians is the 13 page chapter on diseases of the glans penis and prepuce which ends with a one and a half page bibliography on those diseases.

Vulval disease, in contrast, is dealt with briefly in only four pages and the bibliography fails to mention Ridley's monograph on the subject. The coverage of sexually transmitted diseases is also relatively basic. For instance, in 14 pages on gonorrhoea there are only two sentences on penicillin resistance. Genitourinary physicians will nevertheless find this useful for its excellent coverage of general dermatology and for some of its coverage of dermatological aspects of genitourinary medicine.

C CARNE

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## NOTICE

### The Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases Undergraduate Prize Regulations

A prize of £150.00 to be called the MSSVD UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE will be awarded annually by the MSSVD (provided an entry of a suitable standard is received).

Entries for the prize will take the form of a report written in English.

The subject of the report should be related to sexually transmitted disease, genitourinary medicine or HIV infection.

The report should concern original and unpublished observations made by the entrant. The report, which should not exceed 2000 words, should include an introduction to the subject, methods used to make the observations, findings and discussion. A summary of the report on a separate sheet should also be provided. Entries must be machine or type-written and double spaced on one side only of A4 paper. Three copies must be submitted.

The subject must be approved by a genitourinary physician to the entrant's medical school. The observation must be made before full registration. A winner may not enter for the Prize again. Each entry should be accompanied by a declaration that these conditions have been fulfilled.

Entries should be submitted to the Hon Secretary of the Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases by 30 June each year. They will then be considered by the President, the Hon Secretary and the Hon Treasurer. When appropriate other experts may be consulted. These assessors will make recommendations to Council who will make the final decision concerning the Prize.

Entries must be submitted within 12 months of full registration or its equivalent.

Regulations are obtainable from the Hon Secretary MSSVD.

The assessors may ask the editor of an appropriate journal to consider an entry for publication. If so, it will be received for publication in the usual way.